



Pennsylvania Avenue - Scenic Byway

4

# THE COMPONENT PLANS

## Overview of the Plans

As specified in the federal scenic byway policy, a corridor management plan: “... should provide for the conservation and enhancement of the byway’s intrinsic qualities as well as the promotion of tourism and economic development. The plan should provide an effective management strategy to balance these concerns while providing for the users’ enjoyment of the byway.”

This definition indicates that a Corridor Management Plan is actually a collection of plans. These plans include:

**Intrinsic Qualities Maintenance and Enhancement Plan**

This plan proposes recommendations for avoiding potential threats and detractors or mitigating existing threats and detractors to the intrinsic qualities and resources.

**Visitor Experience Plan**

This plan discusses efforts and proposals to minimize any intrusions on the visitor experience. It also identifies plans to enhance the experience, such as accommodating visitor services along the byway. The plan also discusses strategies to interpret the resources along the byway and educate travelers about them.

**Tourism, Marketing and Promotion Plan**

This plan describes how the Scenic Byway will be marketed and publicized to attract visitors, especially those from other countries. In addition, the plan discusses means to accommodate increased tourism.

**Roadway Plan**

The roadway plan discusses proposed modifications to the roadway alignment or design and proposed streetscape treatments

to the byway. The plan also discusses numerous strategies to increase alternative forms of transportation along the byway, such as public transportation, motor tours, bicycling, and walking.

**Commerce and Facilities Plan**

This plan proposes placement of highway signs that will support the visitor experience and help visitors find their way. This plan also demonstrates that existing laws on the control of outdoor advertising are being met

**Component Plans of the Corridor Management Plan**

- **Intrinsic Qualities Maintenance and Enhancement Plan**
- **Visitor Experience Plan**
- **Tourism, Marketing and Promotion Plan**
- **Roadway Plan**
- **Commerce and Facilities Plan**

Corridor Management Plan



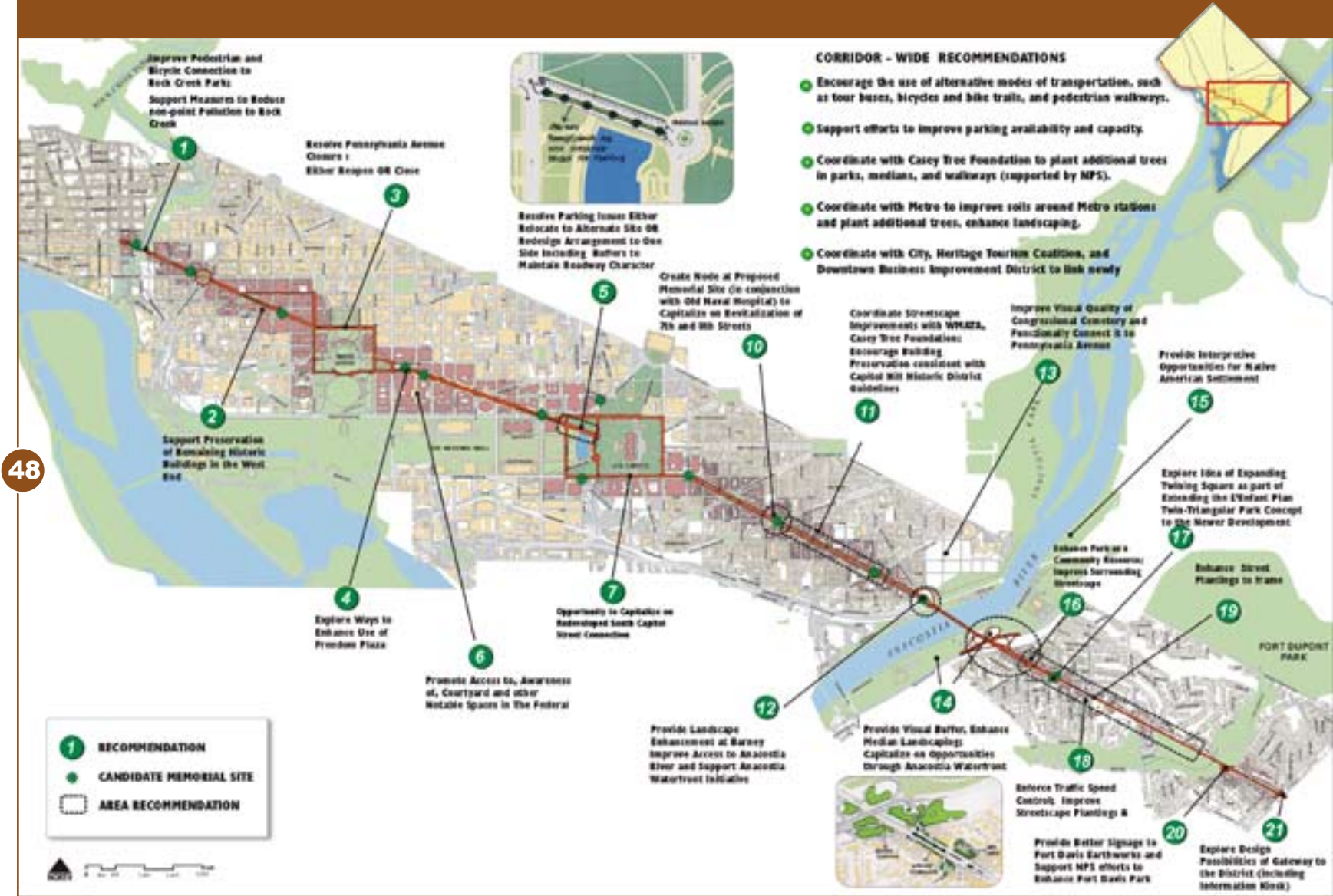


Fig. 4-1 MAINTENANCE & ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

## 4 The Component Plans Intrinsic Qualities Maintenance & Enhancement Plan

One of the key objectives of this corridor management plan is to preserve, maintain, and enhance the scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, and natural intrinsic qualities of the Pennsylvania Avenue Scenic Byway. Since this objective is critical to byway planning, it is the reason for addressing it first in this chapter. This section briefly summarizes each intrinsic quality from Chapter 2, and addresses certain related concerns and detractors. Examples of measures to maintain and enhance the intrinsic qualities are made in the form of recommendations; many of which are indicated on the map in Figure 4-1.

### Scenic Quality

The scenic resources of Pennsylvania Avenue provide for a one-of-a-kind visual experience: views of majestic structures, vibrant streetscapes, and prominent landscaped spaces that are visually interesting by day or night. Detractors to scenic quality can take the form of inappropriate outdoor advertising, overhead utility lines, parking areas within significant viewlines, buildings in poor condition, incompatible communication towers, and even unattractive security barriers and fixtures. Since much of the viewshed is “up close and personal,” close attention to specific architectural elements, facades, and detail of structures is required. Longer range views - such as the famous view down the Avenue toward the Capitol building, the view of the Capitol from east of the river, and views from Sousa Bridge of the Anacostia River - require attention to all contributing components.

In coordination with numerous organizations, such as the National Park Service, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, private foundations, neighborhood associations, civic groups, and the District Department of Transportation, this plan recommends the following measures:

- Plant additional trees along the corridor along streets and in parks, medians, and walkways.

- Redesign and visually screen the parking area on Pennsylvania Avenue between 1st and 3rd Streets, which detracts from a significant view of the Capitol building.
- Rehabilitate boarded-up or derelict and unattractive structures along the corridor.
- Improve the landscaping and plant additional trees around the Eastern Market Metro Station.
- Improve the cemetery’s appearance and to visually and physically connect it to the Avenue, while providing for increased security and lighting.
- Continue efforts to redesign and enhance landscaping at Barney Circle to create an attractive green space comparable to other circles and parks along the Avenue.
- Provide visual buffers and landscaping improvements by the Anacostia Freeway interchange to screen views of the freeway and on-ramps; bury or remove overhead utility lines.
- Improve streetscape amenities, plantings, and lighting from Minnesota Avenue to 38th Street SE.
- Enhance street plantings along Pennsylvania Avenue by 30th and 31st Streets SE to frame the first views of the Capitol building to west-bound travelers.

### Natural Quality

The natural resources of Pennsylvania Avenue are those of a unique urban environment. Native vegetation has been preserved in parks, and green spaces are part of the original Avenue design. There are exotic plants on display in the US Botanic Garden, and the commemorative trees around the White House and Capitol building have cultural and historic significance. Along several Avenue segments, street trees enhance views and provide shade. However, land uses of the urban environment have also degraded natural resources, resulting in river pollution and habitat loss.



Redesign and Enhance Landscaping at Barney Circle



Improve Congressional Cemetery’s Appearance



Improve landscaping at Eastern Market Metro Station





Native Vegetation at Pershing Park



Eastern Market

Trees and herbaceous vegetation suffer the stress of living in an urban environment; in addition to physical breakage, threats include soil erosion, soil compaction, too much or too little water, and air pollution.

Through coordination with private foundations, the Architect of the Capitol, the National Park Service, and the District Department of Transportation, this plan recommends the following measures:

- Support government agency and private organization efforts to improve water quality and reduce sources of non-point pollution in Rock Creek and the Anacostia River.
- Support NPS's efforts to maintain native ecosystems and manage non-native invasive plant species in Rock Creek Park.
- Enhance riparian and wetland habitat along the Anacostia River to benefit the species of birds that live there year-round or pass through on migrations, as well as resident animals.
- Plant additional trees and shrubs along the corridor, particularly within parks and larger open spaces where particular attention can be given to restoring native vegetation.

### Historic Quality

The Pennsylvania Avenue corridor is rich in historic resources. Many historic sites and districts have already been identified and assessed and are generally well preserved and interpreted. Detractors and threats to the resources can occur through neglect or loss of an historic property, as well as inappropriate development or renovation that physically damages or diminishes the historic integrity of a property, including changes to nearby structures and land uses that reflect adversely upon the setting of the historic property.

In conjunction with neighborhood organizations, Advisory Neigh-

borhood Commissions, the National Park Service, the DC Office of Planning, District Department of Transportation, DC Heritage Tourism Coalition, and the Downtown DC Business Improvement District, this plan recommends the following measures:

- Preserve historic buildings throughout the corridor; conduct restoration and rehabilitation of historic properties in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
- Ensure that historic property maintenance and enhancement on Capitol Hill is consistent with Capitol Hill Historic District guidelines.
- Identify historic sites in the corridor that are not interpreted, conduct research, and prepare interpretative narratives that can be included in the city's coordinated signage program. Signs should be installed at these sites to enhance visitors' experience of the history of Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Support existing and new cultural heritage tours of historic venues near Pennsylvania Avenue by creating, distributing, and publicizing information brochures about them; link historic interpretative tours to the corridor and share signage;
- Support the Washington Convention and Tourism Corporation's efforts to market and promote authentic experiences of historic Washington, DC.
- Work to preserve the potentially threatened historic values of the Old Naval Hospital and Eastern Market.
- Improve signage marking access to Congressional Cemetery.
- Provide better signage for the historic resources of Fort Davis to enhance visitors' experience at Fort Davis Park.

### Archaeological Quality

Centuries of urban development have largely obscured remnants of prehistory along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor. However, a

significant opportunity exists in the vicinity of the Anacostia River. This plan recommends:

- Investigate and assess the prehistoric resources along the Anacostia River waterfront with the intent to interpret, if appropriate, Native American settlement and occupation in the area.
- Increase awareness of Civil War earthworks at Fort Davis.

### Cultural Quality

The Pennsylvania Avenue Scenic Byway provides not only the experience of being in heart of the Nation's Capital, but also a slice of the great diversity in culture that Americans share as their common heritage. In addition to linking American symbols of democracy, the Avenue is used for parades, races, marches, and the Inaugural procession. The corridor abounds with theaters, museums, festival sites, monuments, art galleries, venues for music concerts, and parks for protests, vigils, and rallies.

To address cultural issues, this plan recommends the following:

- Explore ways to enhance the use of Freedom Plaza.
- Promote use of the Federal Triangle area, including improved access to and awareness of its courtyard and notable spaces.
- Create a node - an active central point that generates a sense of place - near 7th and 8th Streets SE at the NCPD "Memorials and Museums Master Plan" proposed memorial site (in conjunction with the Old Naval Hospital) to capitalize on ongoing revitalization efforts in the area.
- Support improved access to the Anacostia River from nearby neighborhoods through the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.
- Support East of the River neighborhood revitalization efforts along Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Enhance the parks along Pennsylvania Avenue east of the

river: Develop L'Enfant Park (near Minnesota Avenue) as a community resource, and consider expanding Twining Park to match the "bow-tie" L'Enfant parks located west of the river.

- Support efforts to enhance signage, landscaping, and other amenities at Southern Avenue as a gateway to DC. Explore this site as a possible location for an information kiosk.

### Recreational Quality

For an urban byway, Pennsylvania Avenue offers a surprising variety of recreational activities and resources. Anacostia Park and Rock Creek Park, which both intersect the byway, are the two largest and most significant recreational areas in the District. In addition, there are unique activities such as bike tours of monuments and kite-flying on the National Mall. Recreation-related concerns exist primarily in the form of inadequate access to resources. Other detractors include concerns for personal safety in larger, wooded parks; heavy vehicular traffic interfering with biking and walking; and inadequate directional signage.

In conjunction with groups and initiatives, such as the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, this plan recommends the following measures:

- Develop pedestrian and bicycle access to the Anacostia River waterfront from Pennsylvania Avenue and adjacent neighborhoods on both sides of Sousa Bridge.
- Improve shoreline facilities to expand the public use of watercraft on the river, including canoe and boat rentals and launch ramps.
- Support efforts by the District and bicycle advocacy groups to designate and improve bicycle trails within or connecting to the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor.
- Explore and provide, if feasible, additional opportunities for winter ice skating in parks and open spaces along the Avenue.



Houses East of the River



Musical Performance on Pennsylvania Avenue